CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) Wastewater treatment apparatus comprising two pre-tanks and a reactor tank between which a transfer connection is provided to enable wastewater to be transferred from each pre-tank to the reactor tank, and in which the reactor tank is provided with a biomass and aeration equipment to enable the wastewater to be treated in the reactor tank, wherein at least one of said pre-tanks is provided with a storm overflow, whereby even in storm conditions the reactor tank remains effective and settled solids from the storm flow in said pre-tanks are transferred at intervals to the reactor tank, and in the event of persistence of the storm conditions, excess wastewater is released via the storm overflow without interrupting operation of the reactor tank, characterized in that said two pre-tanks are provided with respective inlets, each with its own shut off valve, and respective outlets, each with its own shut off valve, and wherein the transfer connection opens into a sump at the base of the said at least one pre-tank, and a cover plate is provided which covers the sump with a spacing between the cover plate and the base of the said at least one pre-tank which is sufficiently small to reduce the turbulence of fluid within that tank, so that it is not unduly unsettled in storm conditions, when transfer takes place.

2. (Previously Presented) Wastewater treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each said pre-tank is provided with a stirrer.

3. (Previously Presented) Wastewater treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein aeration equipment is provided in each said pre-tank.

4. (Previously Presented) Wastewater treatment apparatus according to claim 2, wherein aeration equipment is provided in at least one pre-tank.

5. (Previously Presented) Wastewater treatment apparatus according to claim 2, wherein at least one pre-tank is provided with a level sensor to switch-off the stirrer once the level of the wastewater in that tank rises above a predetermined level.

6. (Previously Presented) Wastewater treatment apparatus according to claim 3, wherein at least one pre-tank is provided with a level sensor to switch-off the aeration equipment once the level of the wastewater in that tank rises above a predetermined level.

7. (Previously Presented) Wastewater treatment apparatus according to claim 4, wherein at least one pre-tank is provided with a level sensor to switch-off the stirrer and the aeration equipment once the level of the wastewater in that tank rises above a predetermined level.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) Wastewater treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the storm overflow comprises a weir.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (New) A method of treating wastewater comprising feeding wastewater to at least one pre-tank from which it is fed at intervals to a reactor tank containing a biomass and aeration equipment to treat the wastewater, wherein the said at least one pre-tank has a capacity to enable it to retain storm flow for a sufficient period of time whilst the reactor tank remains effective and settled solids in the said at least one pre-tank are transferred at intervals to the reactor tank via a sump at the base of the said at least one

pre-tank which sump is covered by a cover plate with a spacing between the cover plate and the base of the said at least one pre-tank which is sufficiently small to reduce to the turbulence of fluid within the tank, so that it is not unduly unsettled in storm conditions, when transfer takes place, and wherein in the event of persistence of storm conditions, excess wastewater is released via a storm overflow provided in the said at least one pre-tank without interrupting operation of the reactor tank.